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An \$82,000 federal grant has been awarded to the Lake County state's attorney's office and the Waukegan Police Department, according to U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park.

The money will be used by State's Attorney Michael Waller's office to expand a domestic violence awareness program, Kirk said.

The office will produce additional domestic violence safety plan cards and create a new safety plan for children, he said. New computer equipment and software to help domestic violence counselors to track cases also will be purchased.

Waukegan police will use their portion of the grant to upgrade radio equipment for first responders with the purchase of P25 portable radios, Kirk said.

"Police, fire and emergency medical crews have to be able to talk with each other," he said. "With these funds, Waukegan first responders will be able to communicate regardless of geographical or jurisdictional boundaries."